

University of Phoenix offers an Associate of Arts degree with a range of concentrations in business, criminal justice, education, health and human services, information technology, and more. The curriculum provides a foundation and overview within the academic disciplines of communication arts, social sciences, mathematics, life sciences, and the humanities. Instruction focuses on the development of student skills in writing, critical thinking, and information utilization, as well as foundational competencies in the selected concentration.

The Associate of Arts with a concentration in Psychology provides an overview of positive psychology, theories of personality, human sexuality, the physiological and neurological bases of human behavior, diversity, psychological disorders, and social interactions. Students learn to analyze the interrelationship of fundamental psychological theories and how they define and explain human behavior, development, and abnormalities. Students will also critically evaluate the robustness of various psychometrics, develop their own psychological theories based on a conglomeration of principles outlined by experts in the field, and assess the impact of cognition on physical and mental health.

Nine weeks in length, courses are offered in pairs, or "blocks," designed to complement each other. In these courses, emphasis alternates weekly between reading and online discussion one week and a work project the next.

The completion of an Associate of Arts degree represents an important milestone for many students as they pursue their educational goals.

Required Course of Study

The Associate Of Arts With A Concentration In Psychology requires a minimum of 60 credits, which may come from a combination of required and elective courses.

PSY201 Foundations Of Psychology

This course overviews the foundations of psychology as the field applies to everyday life. The physical and mental aspects of psychology are traced through lifespan development with emphasis on psychological health and wellness. Further study focuses on personality; thinking, learning and memory; motivation and emotions; and gender and sexuality. Based in various historical traditions, the course is set in the context of contemporary psychological principles.

(3 credits)

PSY220 Positive Psychology: What's Right With Me

How much control do we have over our thoughts, feelings, and behaviors? What does it mean to be "free"? This course offers the student a contemporary and relevant approach to the study of psychology and, in the process, the opportunity to learn more about themselves. In the course, the student will be able to evaluate, understand, and build on their psychological strengths and those of others. (3 credits)

PSY230 Theories Of Personality: I Think, Therefore Who Am I?

What is theory? What is personality? What is your theory of your personality? This course introduces the student to a number of personality theorists, their personalities, and their views in offering insight in to the question of the self. Psychoanalytic, social, behavioral, traits, biological, humanistic, and cognitive are some of the theories that will be discussed in this course. (3 credits)

PSY240 The Brain, The Body, And The Mind: All Together Now

This course provides an introduction to the investigation of physiological and neurological basis for human behavior. The student will be able to study and discuss various influences on personality development, such as pre-natal maternal behavior; gender; nature versus nurture; brain development; genetic composition; sensory motor interactions; learning disabilities; drug impacts; and neurological diseases. (3 credits)

PSY265 Psychology Of Human Sexuality

This course is a comprehensive view of the psychosocial and physiological aspects of sexual health in our contemporary society. The student will have opportunities to explore numerous relevant topics including love, intimacy, and relationships; sex and marketing; sexual diseases; sexual abuse; gender identity and sex roles; and socio-cultural influences and values in decision making. The course is designed for the student to understand attitudes and behaviors as they relate to sexual well-being and integrity. (3 credits)

PSY270 Abnormal Psychology: Abuse, Addiction, And Disorders

This course introduces the study of major psychological disorders as defined in the DSM-IV, including their diagnoses, causes, and treatments. It covers such subjects as depression, bipolarity, anxiety, panic, somatoform, dissociation, substance abuse, anorexia, schizophrenia, and childhood disorders, as well as gender and cultural differences. (3 credits)

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Please note: A typical schedule, including progression and title of courses, may vary by location and modality. Please contact an Enrollment Advisor for more information.